

## Margaret Botorff

We are responsible for being stewards of the environment, long term, and the evidence that the gas drilling can be harmful continues to mount.

Changes to stream water quality occur where gas drilling and related activities are located. For instance, a publication of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences found streams adjacent to gas wells are negatively impacted by runoff and sedimentation, harming fish and wildlife and causing streams to be eroded and destabilized.

We should take heed of effects in nearby Pennsylvania. At present, there are about 10,000 wells in the ground. The industry's goal is 100,000 wells. In the past ten years, more than 300 confirmed cases of water contamination have occurred. Some of those cases involve several families. More than 9,400 complaints have been filed with the DEP. More than 4,400 of those are water-related. Most have gone unaddressed. More than 1200 peer-reviewed studies have identified wide-ranging health effects already impacting Pennsylvanians. Dead cattle and fish kills are just some of the indications that shale gas development is affecting our farm animals and wildlife. Any action by the DRBC that enables an industry that has done so much to harm Pennsylvanians in just ten years and exposes the basin to the particular threats fracking waste and water extraction pose is unacceptable. The DRBC has the opportunity to do the responsible, far-sighted thing by imposing a full fracking ban.